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## AUSTRALIA.

*Plague on coastwise steamship Mareeba at Brisbane—Examination of rodents at Brisbane, Cairns, and Sydney for plague infection—Plague at Cairns.*

The following information is taken from plague bulletins issued by the departments of health of Queensland and New South Wales and forwarded by Consul-General Bray, at Melbourne:

## QUEENSLAND.

*Brisbane.*—Week ended September 21. A steward on board the steamship *Mareeba*, a cargo vessel trading between Sydney and Rockhampton, was discovered to be suffering from plague on the arrival of the vessel at Brisbane on September 16. The patient was first taken ill on September 12, when the vessel was at New Castle, bound for Sydney. The ship arrived at Brisbane on September 16, and immediately after the case was discovered was quarantined in mid-stream. The patient was removed September 17, and the work of fumigation and disinfection of vessel and cargo was commenced. Seventy-eight dead rodents were found, of which 42 were probably plague-infected. All the rats found on the vessel were of the species *Mus Alexandrinus Rufus*. No other cases have been discovered.

During the week 359 rodents were destroyed, 274 examined, 2 found infected.

Week ended September 28. Plague case removed from steamship *Mareeba* died September 21. Rodents destroyed, 355; examined, 260; found infected, 2 on two separate premises.

*Cairns.*—Week ended September 21. Total number of rats found since outbreak 211, of which 37 were probably plague-infected, all of the *Mus Decumanus* species. The work of cleansing the town is still progressing.

Week ended September 28. A third case of plague was reported September 20; premises in vicinity of wharves. The case terminated fatally September 21. On September 23 a fourth case was reported in a Cingalese, who was found dead in his tent at Mulgrave, near Cairns, in the vicinity of the wharves. Total number of rodents destroyed since outbreak 43.

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

*Sydney.*—Week ended September 21. Rodents destroyed, 1,922; examined, 502; found infected, 1.

Week ended September 28. Rodents destroyed, 1,800; examined, 421; found infected, 0. Date of last plague case May 19. Date of last infected rodent taken September 18; from fresh premises, September 5.